MONTEREY NEWS

May 2017

Est. 1970 Vol. XLVII · Number 5

The Monterey Milestones Tour, on Saturday, April 22, celebrated the completion of two major projects for Monterey. Folks visited the new community center in steady numbers for their six-hour open house. The new transfer station had many people show up for their "maiden voyage," figuring out what went where, how to get in and out, and admiring the new, larger, brighter swap shop. The library had visits from folks wanting to know more about the plans, and how the town can fund this big step into the future. It's now up to us to use these facilities, and to not feel shy about making suggestions to make them work as well as possible.

BALONEY. In fact, it takes a great deal of serious effort, patience, plodding, and deliberation to accomplish the business of running the town.
In My View page 4

The LGWG will hold a special informational meeting at 7 p.m., May 1, at town hall, focused exclusively on a discussion of Article 14.
LGWG meeting page 6

Residents of every household shall separate waste material.… If the waste material has not been separated, it may not be accepted at the transfer station…"
Recycling in Monterey page 30

Now we can enjoy the foresight of her vision while we admire the exemplary wildlife motherhood all around us.
Nest Eggs page 24

Enjoy songs about love affairs gone wrong; women warriors in disguise; loves lost to war, shipwreck, and rattlesnakes.
Bidwell House Concert page 27

This bear was chased up there by Libby's cat, who went right up after it to a height of about twenty feet.
Wildlife Report page 28

An officer responded to a dumped couch at Brewer Pond Dam. The next day an officer responded to a fire extinguisher on the loose in the middle of Main Road.
Police Report page 25

Skunny Wundy rid the land of stone giants and helped his people when they had all sorts of problems. At one time, there was trouble from the stinging notes.
Tussocks page 14

and what dear woman
do you prove your worth with willingly?
cooking, cleaning, planting, and filling
these rooms with children?
Here Again page 17

State Reps and Select Board
Broad Questions—Part 2

The select board invited Senator Adam Hinds and Representative Smitty Pignatelli to a meeting on March 20 to discuss some questions and concerns that affect Monterey and other small towns in the area and across the state. Topics discussed in Part 1, published in the April issue, included building a broadband network, expanding cell service, and the situation with area schools.

Infrastructure

This portion of the meeting was devoted to two topics. Chapter 90 money from the state for maintenance of roads, bridges, and culverts, and the process for bridge replacements.

Basler pointed out that Route 23 has over a thousand cars per day. The state, after years of waiting, finally rebuilt the entire length last summer. But the cost to maintain the road, to preserve the investment that was just made, falls to the town. He said the town is fine with the cost to plow the state roads, but the maintenance, with that kind of traffic load, is a huge burden.

The Chapter 90 formula for granting money has three criteria: road miles, population, and employment. Smaller towns like ours are at a huge competitive disadvantage to qualify for Chapter 90 money because while we have significant road miles, we have a small population, and very little employment within the town.

The select board made a plea for the state to consider a tier-based structure for many of its programs that impact directly on the small towns. The nature of the burdens in small towns is very different than for larger towns, suburban, and urban areas, and yet so much of the state regulations are designed for the larger population centers. The issue of scale is a problem throughout the rural areas. The board was told that there is a task force considering the issue of scale, and that currently it looks like a threshold would be for towns over and under seven thousand.

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The discussion over tiers led quite naturally to talking about bridge replacements. Weisz said that there are 180 small bridges (defined by the state as under twenty-foot spans) in Berkshire County and that half are in poor condition, close to being closed. Balser told the representatives of how recently the town, not looking to the state for support, replaced two bridges recently for $175,000, or about the estimate given for just the engineering for one of the bridges, and that the cost to replace that bridge (on New Marlboro Road) might have run to half-a-million dollars. It was also noted that the state has changed their rules so that now they have control over all bridges with a ten-foot span or larger, making similar local solutions even more difficult. Balser said of this move, "With the Department of Transportation taking control of these small bridges, partnership with the towns is lost." And it was noted that we currently have one bridge, on Curtis Road, with reduced load limits that will need to be replaced fairly soon.

Reflecting on a similarity between the schools and bridges situation, Pignatelli pointed out that there was a lot of building in the 1960s of schools and bridges, and now these structures, which are all over the area, are fifty years or older, and needing replacement. With declining populations, and state revenues in a severe pinch, there just isn't the money.

Non-taxed Land

The issue was raised that 65% of the town is tax-excluded land, with the great majority of this in state forest and park lands. Current Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) programs are only paying 8% of what they should be paying relative to assessed values. This means that 35% of the town carries the full burden of town costs. Pignatelli said that the state owns approximately 250,000 acres in Berkshire County, which is 10% of all state owned land, whereas the county contains only 1% of the state's population. Clearly this is an issue that has a much greater impact on the less densely settled areas of the state. He also said that he has on occasion voiced his concern that the state should stop buying land if they can't afford to support the towns by making up the loss of revenue.

Other Topics

Carol Edelman brought up the question of whether the state could use tax credits to help relieve some of the burden on families who are paying college tuition expenses. She said that the cost of private colleges and universities now is around the $60,000 mark per year, and that public colleges and universities are getting harder to get into, and more expensive as well. Pignatelli mentioned an interesting fact. He said that when he was younger it was widely known that a high school student would be accepted to UMass with a grade-point

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with jennifer browdy
These programs are supported in part by a grant from the Sandisfield Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

average of 2.5 to 2.75 (out of 4). He said the current UMass incoming freshman class has a GPA of 3.85. The state does not have the resources to expand the higher education system and this is making it much more competitive to get in.

The topic of shared services came up as well, with Basler pointing out that one of the major sticking points was health care and retirement costs, especially retirement provisions. He pointed out that with our recent town administrator, Monterey was carrying the full cost of employee health insurance. Pignatelli made a point to explain that it is already possible to share those benefit expenses between towns, and cited some examples right in the area. However, to do this it is necessary that the shared service is considered one job, with the employee splitting their time between the two towns. In the case of our recent town administrator, that position was two half-time jobs, which makes arranging benefit cost-sharing much more difficult.

At the end of the two-hour discussion all the participants felt that it had been very productive. Both the select board and Senator Hinds and Representative Pignatelli reviewed their action items to continue supporting Monterey, and everyone thought it would be a good idea to do this again before too much more time goes by.

—Stephen Moore

Monterey Community Center Open!

The Monterey Community Center received its certificate of occupancy on April 12, and that same day the facility was inaugurated by a session of the balance class sponsored by the council on aging. A number of other activities have taken place at the center since then, and we welcome you and your wishes and ideas for using the space. Come over to 468 Main Road (on the corner of Route 23 and New Marlboro Road) to see the welcoming nature of the former Wilson McLaughlin House for yourself.

Check our new website at ccmonterey.org where you will always find, among other things, the current events calendar. To schedule your own event or activity, please contact our event coordinator by emailing calendar@ccmonterey.org, or by calling 413-528-3600 and leaving a voicemail.

Your meetings and activities are welcome as long as they fit in the schedule with other reservations. For Monterey residents, landowners, and groups, there is no cost for booking the space for public and private activities, though donations are always appreciated. There will be a small charge if your event is commercial in nature. We are working on a series of classes and events sponsored by the center itself—you will see publicity for them as they are arranged.

Stephen Moore

Shirley Olds and Edith Wilson re-united—that's Edith on the wall behind.

Meanwhile we will be working on the terms of a new lease with the town since, as it turns out, the current lease is not very specific about operation of the center, and who is responsible for what aspects of this town property.

Thanks as always for your support,
Friends of the Wilson-McLaughlin House.
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In My View
Monterey Lights the Way

As we head into another town meeting and town election, there has been much discussion about the challenges, real and imagined, facing Monterey. I was especially dismayed to read accusations that there may be "too much power" in the hands of town officials, and suggestions that a select board member might be able to embezzle funds, that our town records might be "vulnerable to bias," that we need better checks and balances in town government. Too much control and influence, opportunities for corruption, hard politics? BALONEY. In fact, it takes a great deal of serious effort, patience, plodding, and deliberation to accomplish the business of running the town. And despite the grumblings of a few cranky individuals, Monterey is a very well-run town.

We have the fifth-lowest property tax rate in Berkshire County, lower than our neighboring towns of Otis, Sandisfield, and New Marlborough, and far lower than Sheffield and Great Barrington, to name a few. Despite the recent increase, we are accountable for every penny, and we pinch them hard. What do we have to show for your tax dollars and the labors of our town employees? Our roads and seasonal maintenance throughout Monterey are superior to most in the region, and we are constantly improving. We have begun long-range planning and preparations to keep ahead of local infrastructure needs. We have a new, unique community center, thanks to the herculean efforts of numerous Friends of the McLaughlin-Wilson House, volunteers, and community support. Our new transfer station is state of the art, we have upped our environmental game with regard to recycling a wide range of materials, and permit fees are still low. We are in the planning, dreaming, and making-it-happen phase of a project to enable Monterey's fine, historic library to serve an increasingly active role in the community. Youth baseball is alive and well every spring, played on a down-home diamond in the middle of a sweet little downtown. Our dedicated, capable Monterey Fire Company and EMT's are well-trained and well-equipped. We are home to many acres of protected state park and forest lands and several of the cleanest recreational lakes in the region.

Monterey shares our community with highly regarded non-profit organizations committed to serving others, including Gould Farm, Camp Hume, and the Bidwell House Museum. And how about our Knox Art Gallery? Always surprising swap shop? Small but mighty Council on Aging?

Last year, we invited the Massachusetts Department of Local Services to examine the financial and administrative structure of the town. They made some suggestions, but also determined that we do, in fact, manage the town pretty well. We do more with less. Instead of griping, let's appreciate our skilled, dedicated town employees, volunteers, neighbors, and residents who support our best efforts to make Monterey a fine place to live.

—Carol Edelman
Monterey Select Board

Editor's Note: In My View *is a monthly feature for this paper. It provides the individual select board members an opportunity, on a rotating basis, to communicate their thoughts about town affairs—reflections, opinions, and updates on topics of their choice. The views expressed are solely those of the writer, and are not meant to reflect the views of the full select board.*

Broadband Update

Parallel to our negotiation efforts with Fiber Connect and Frontier Communications, Monterey is working with the Commonwealth, via a number of organizations that fall under the Department of Housing and Economic Development (HED), to determine the appropriate source(s) of funding that make up the grants earmarked for Monterey's Broadband Project. This is currently the focal point of all of our efforts. Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI), Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MTC) and HED itself each have programs to allocate the funds. We are in discussions with each organization and filing grant applications to obtain the Commonwealth's commitment.

This is taking longer than we had hoped or anticipated. The Commonwealth is streamlining their processes to make them more efficient—however, each change requires that we re-start or modify efforts that were already in process.

Our direct vendor discussions are progressing in parallel so that once the grant issues are resolved we can make a definitive directional statement to our internet-starved community.

As always, please send questions or comments to broadband@montereyma.gov.

—Cliff Weiss
Monterey Broadband Committee

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Council on Aging Notes

The Monterey Community Center is opened. Henceforth, the council on aging will use the center for many of its regular and special activities.

Regularly Scheduled Activities

Tuesdays: From 12:30 to 3 p.m. there will be games and cards. Bridge starts at 12:30 p.m. Duplicate bridge will not be played at this time. Pitch starts at 1 p.m. New players are very welcome.

Wednesdays: On the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month the council will hold an open meeting 10 a.m. The Matter of Balance exercises will continue from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. A schedule for initial programs will be posted in the town hall and the post office.

Special Activities

On Tuesday, May 2, the council has been invited to join the chair yoga session with Connie Wilson that morning at 9 to learn about the benefits of that program, maybe stimulate some interest, and enjoy light refreshments.

On Wednesday, May 10, a luncheon date at Mt. Everett Culinary Program has been made. The meal includes soup, salad, entree with a side, dessert and beverage. The council is paying for this. We need a head count by May 1. The Mt. Everett Holiday Celebration in December was great, so please join us.

The Pittsfield Suns will be playing at Wahconah Park on Sunday, July 16, at 5 p.m. Gates open at 4 o'clock. We have booked grandstand seats for that event as well as a voucher for a hotdog or hamburger or grilled chicken served on a roll with chips and a soft drink. The cost for you is $5. The council will cover the rest. Let us know if you expect to come. We send a deposit in May and need a final count by July 1.

For questions or reservations, please call Kay at 528-9151, or in June, call Maryellen at 528-1598.

—Kay Purcell
Council on Aging

Maureen Banner

Kate, Kay, and Laurie were among the ladies enjoying a lunch together at the Roadside.

Kundalini Yoga
Community Center

Kundalini yoga will be offered at the community center starting Monday, May 8, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Classes are $10 per session, a portion of which will be donated to the community center. Each class combines postures, hand movements, chanting, and meditation.

Improved well-being and health benefits are experienced when practiced on a regular basis. *Yoga* means to yoke or to join. In Kundalini yoga one develops a connection between your body, mind, and spirit. I have recently completed a two-hundred-hour certification program in KYT Aquarian Yoga Level One. Space is limited and pre-registration is encouraged. For questions, contact Susan at susancain9@gmail.com, or by cell phone at 203-249-8958.

—Susan Cain

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Lake Garfield Working Group
May Update

The Lake Garfield Working Group's (LGWG) most recent monthly meeting took place on April 10 and focused primarily on Article 14 of the town warrant to be voted on at the upcoming annual town meeting. This article was approved and submitted by the select board in response to recommendations that the LGWG submitted to the select board in February. The text of the article reads as follows:

"ARTICLE 14 - to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $50,000 or any other sum to pay for milfoil harvesting and containment in Lake Garfield, or take any other action relative thereto."

Our recommendations present proactive steps to address the spread of the invasive plant eurasian watermilfoil (e.milfoil)—a known factor that presently affects the quality of the lake.

The Milfoil Threat

Our research, which includes discussions with multiple different lake scientists, has helped us understand the nature of and potential threat to lake health that milfoil poses. We learned that e.milfoil is an invasive plant species, which means that it is both exotic (non-native) to the lake, and that it spreads rapidly when left unchecked. As is the case with many invasive species, e.milfoil threatens native ecological habitat by consuming available nutrients that would otherwise feed native plants. The nature of how e.milfoil expands, creating a "mat-like effect" on the surface of the water, also adversely affects native species by cutting them off from the sunlight they need to grow. These dense patches, already present in some areas of the lake, not only render the area uninhabitable for native plants, but can render the area unusable for recreational purposes such as boating, fishing or swimming. Furthermore, these dense mats can result in "anoxia" in the underlying waters. Anoxia is an ecological condition that contributes to an increase in algal populations, adversely affecting water clarity and quality.

Professional Assessment

In addition to learning about the invasive nature of e.milfoil, we consulted with Emily Stockman, a lake scientist from Stockman Associates, LLC. Stockman helped us assess the growth of e.milfoil populations within the lake based on a history of lake vegetation surveys, the most recent of which she conducted herself in 2016. It is her assessment that "the population of [e.milfoil] is increasing within the lake" and "given the aggressive, invasive nature of [it], a 'no-action' strategy will result in the continued expansion of [e.milfoil] populations." In light of this assessment, Stockman provided a list of known management techniques as well as her recommendations for use of these techniques. Stockman's recommendations also included a strong opposition to pursuing a "no-action" strategy.

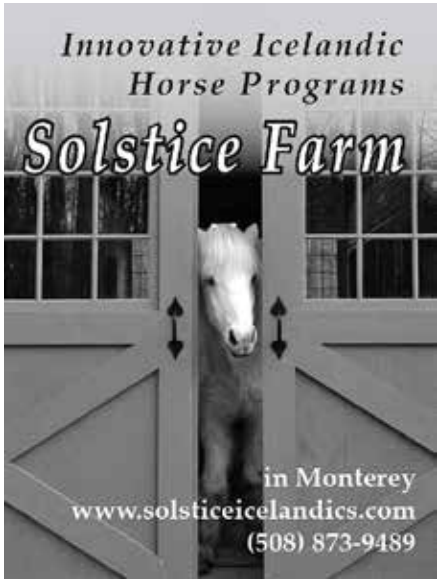
Public Considerations

The LGWG's recommendations to the select board were not only based on the research compiled by the group itself, but also on the will of Monterey residents as demonstrated at previous town meetings. Though Stockman's recommendations suggested that "herbicide treatment" was among techniques that "should be strongly considered" for use on dense patches of e.milfoil, the current town ban of this approach helped focus our research strictly to mechanical and biological options. Installation of benthic barriers as well as introduction of a milfoil weevil population were both examined as potential techniques for use this coming season, but due to the relative cost of employing these techniques, were not recommended. Ultimately, "suction-harvesting/assisted hand pulling" was recommended by both Stockman and the LGWG as the best short-term mitigation measure. We also recommended that areas containing dense milfoil patches be roped off from boating to minimize expansion by way of fragmentation. Article 14 would raise and appropriate funds to finance these endeavors, and help mitigate the spread of this invasive species.

The full text of the LGWG recommendations that spawned Article 14, as well as our meeting minutes and other official public documents pertinent to the LGWG can be found on the town website (link below). The LGWG will hold a special informational meeting at 7 p.m., May 1, at town hall, focused exclusively on a discussion of Article 14. We invite all interested parties to bring their questions and concerns around Article 14 to this meeting that they may be discussed and addressed prior to the May 6 annual town meeting.

—Eric Danforth
Lake Garfield Working Group

To access the LGWG documents, go to the town website, under Departments, Lake Garfield; or enter this URL: montereyma.gov/Public_Documents/MontereyMA_About/townbeach



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Fiber Connect

Monterey Build-out Plans

In response to the recent—and somewhat confusing conversations—about broadband in the Berkshires, I'd like to update the residents of Monterey on what is happening right now and in the near future with Fiber Connect and our broadband installation.

Fiber Connect is a privately-funded company with a network of talent—we do not need financial support from the towns in which we work and provide services. We assume 100% of the financial liability and risk. Our goal is to provide excellent products and services to consumers in Berkshire County. From our perspective, and from many potential customers' perspectives, this should be a "no brainer"—Fiber Connect comes in, builds out the infrastructure with state-of-the-art fiber optic cable (something that the mega-companies aren't offering), and lights up residents with super-fast internet service of 1 gigabyte-per-second (GB) (or one-thousand megabytes-per-second) connection speed for each residence. One GB is more than enough for almost any business and far more than any residence uses.

Of course, there are valid perspectives other than ours and that is what all the discussion is about. Towns need to consider all options and providers, and assess what is best for their internet needs. And not just for this year or next but for many years out. All of the discussions are fair and reasonable. We would like to thank Monterey's broadband committee and the select board for all their time and attention to this difficult and complicated decision. Whatever decisions are ultimately made, we can assure you of this—Fiber Connect is moving forward in Monterey.

Courtesy of Fiber Connect

Reels of Fiber Connect's fiber optic cable ready to be installed throughout Monterey.

While Monterey is negotiating with multiple vendors, we feel confident that we can come to an agreement to move forward together. Phase one is currently on track to start construction in May and we will "light up" customers as we activate sections of fiber cable. Larger crews will hang core distribution fiber optic cables and smaller crews will connect premise equipment and fiber hookups as quickly as possible.

I am a long-time resident of Monterey—my wife, our children, and I are here for the long haul. With my decades of experience in information technology and utility management, and the secure backing of Fiber Connect, Monterey residents can be assured that they will receive the best internet utility services, with the added benefit of a local provider. Fiber Connect has no intention or purpose to collect and sell specific user data, and is net-neutral.

Phase One of our multi-phase build out is in process. I encourage you to go to bfcma.com, click on "Monterey Coverage Map," look for your street, and see which "Phase" you're slated for. When you sign up, Fiber Connect will be in contact to schedule premise access and equipment installation. For those premises that require additional work, such as conduit placement, we will schedule that work as soon as the ground dries out and firms up to minimize impact.

I encourage everyone to sign up for our email newsletter. Just go to bfcma.com and click on "Contact," where you can register for our newsletter and be assured of updates.

We are looking forward to providing you with a high quality, exciting new opportunity in an area that has been sorely lacking.

—Adam Chait

MONTEREY LIBRARY

Monday.....7–9 p.m.
Tuesday.....9 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Wednesday.....2–5 p.m.
Thursday.....4–6 p.m.
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May 10 Town Election Slate

The year's election for town officers will be held on Tuesday, May 10. Polls will be open from 12 noon until 7 p.m., at the Monterey firehouse. Incumbents are indicated by asterisks. Party affiliation, or Independent status, is noted in parentheses.

Contested Seats

Finance Committee (3 years)
Don Coburn (D)
George Cain (R)
Select Board (3 years)
Kenn Basler (R)
Michael Johnson (I)
Town Clerk (1 year)
MaryPaul Yates (D & R)
Hillel Maximon (I)

Uncontested Seats

Board of Appeals (5 years)
Gary Shaw (D & R)
Board of Assessors (1 year)
Donald Hopkins (R)
Board of Assessors (3 years)
Robert Lazzarini* (D)
Board of Health (3 years)
John Makuc* (R)
Cemetery Commission (3 years)
David Brown* (D & R)
Library Trustee (3 years, vote for 2)
John Higgins* (R)
Shannon Amidon Castille (D & R)
Moderator (1 year)
Mark Makuc* (D & R)
Parks Commission (3 years)
Pam Johnson (D & R)
Planning Board (5 years, vote for 2)
Pat Salomon* (D & R)
Don Coburn (D & R)
Town Treasurer (2 years)
Rebecca Wolin (D)
Tree Warden (1 year)
Winston Wilson* (R)

Transfer Station Summer Hours

Sunday	10 a.m.–6 p.m.
Wednesday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.
Saturday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.

P.O. Box 9

No to Appointed

Monterey voters: please vote "No" to converting our town clerk and town treasurer elected positions to appointed positions. This set of questions will be on the town election ballot on Tuesday, May 9. Please think about the following:

We should all be aware of the fact the select board continues to appoint people from other towns who often have different ideas about the job they are being appointed to. Folks within the town are not applying, or are not offered, these jobs. The board somehow seems not to understand how intricate Massachusetts General Law (MGL) is or how residential qualifications and voter status are often central points in who does what in town governing. MGL reflects several hundred years of refinement in New England style check-and-balance government. The laws favor elective office in ways that are not always apparent until some part of the balance or the check is affected. This is certainly the case with town clerks who are not residents and voters of the town. They cannot be registrars, who have duties regarding town ballots, street listings/census, voter registration drives, and processing of absentee ballots. That is just one instance of bias toward residential elective office in MGL. Elected treasurers, too, are favored in law.

History is a fairly good guide to future behavior. When the select board appoints nonresidents to the posts of town clerk and treasurer, they are appointing folks who are only familiar with government in the towns from which they come or in which they have worked. With the exception of an appointed town administrator, appointees cannot be expected to be familiar with protocols in other towns. Here in Monterey, duties are either totally and clearly dictated by MGL, learned through workshop training and certification, or else governed through precedent—in minutes, in bills and payments, in account structures, and in who does what for duties. Such duties are often undertaken in close cooperation with other elected town departments and committees, but with accountability clear in the MGL. That is how government has worked smoothly in this town in the past and could do so again.

So, we do know we cannot realistically expect that this board will appoint town clerks and town treasurers from within the town. After all, if they were going to appoint a fellow townsperson and voter, then why not continue to have that person elected and be held accountable by all the townspeople instead of just by the select board? Why not allow voters to be able to vote out someone inappropriate? We should pay close attention to the fact that if there is discord in town hall, we as voters are only able to replace elected officials.

Please be aware of the meaning of your vote for this town as a whole. These questions for government structure on the May 9 ballot concern not just clerk and treasurer, but therein define both how your taxes are used and how your rights as citizens and voters can be treated.

Also on the same ballot are candidates for election to both these offices. They are residents and voters of Monterey willing to take on the responsibilities of these offices, with demonstrated support for their candidacy from many fellow towns-persons through verified nomination papers. As for their preparation for the posts, please note that workshops are offered by both state associations as well as the secretary of the Commonwealth and the local services division of the DOR. They efficiently teach duties and train newly elected town clerks and treasurers. Workshops always start shortly after the local election season in Massachusetts and continue through the year. Prior training for candidates is less an issue because many duties are seasonal and workshops are timed to reflect that fact.

We should strive to be a community of citizens, thoughtful of one another and Massachusetts General Law, and capable of making our own decisions as to which offices should remain elective and which officials could be voted in or out of office.

—Barbara Swann

Select Board Statement
Town Clerk and Treasurer

At the Tuesday, May 9 town elections, you will be asked to cast your final vote to change the treasurer and town clerk positions from elected to appointed. We'd like to offer you the following criteria written by the University of Massachusetts, Edward J. Collins, Jr. Center for Public Management, and supported by the Department of Revenue Division of Local Services. They recommend positions being appointed when:

- The position has minimal policy-making responsibility.
- It has many ministerial responsibilities and tasks whose performance is guided almost entirely by statute.
- Someone with little training or expertise in that area of work would have significant difficulty in performing the work effectively, potentially creating significant risks for the community.
- The nature of the position makes it relatively difficult for the public to evaluate the performance of its non-policy making duties, for example, efficient use of resources, etc.
- It is critical to the effective and efficient functioning of the government for this position to cooperate regularly with other officials.
- In the community, election for the position historically produces little or no competition and few or no highly qualified candidates.

They also advise that, "By requiring potential candidates to go through a thorough background check and an extensive interview process, the community is in a better position to attract a person with the strongest credentials and most relevant professional experience…He or she would be accountable…and be subject to the same annual performance review process that we encourage communities to adopt."

Note that this strong recommendation is not only coming from the Monterey Select Board but from experienced policy advisors who know that the ability to hire the best applicants for these important offices is worth your votes. Times have changed, and we can change, too. Please vote YES on all three ballot questions at the Tuesday, May 9 town election.

—Monterey Select Board

P.O. Box 9
George Cain for Finance

George Cain is running for a spot on the finance committee. I have known and worked with George for several years. In that time, I have found him to be an honest, straightforward, and knowledgeable person. He is acutely interested in the well-being of our town, and has become active in discussions of how it is managed. You can talk to George. He is no "rubberstamp," and will fight for the taxpayers of Monterey. He and I do not agree on everything. What I respect about him though is that he can "disagree" without being "disagreeable." The finance committee and the citizens of Monterey will be well served to have George Cain in office. I wholeheartedly endorse him.

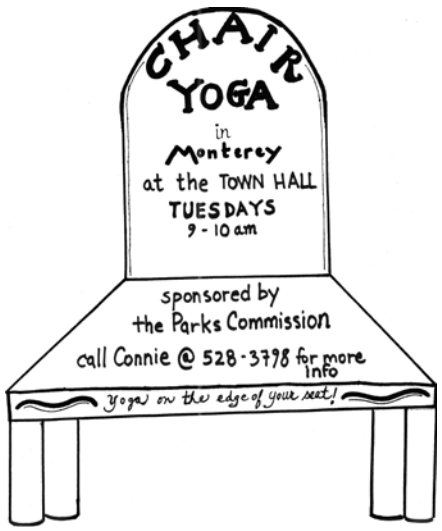
—Steven Weisz

P.O.Box 9
Thank goodness for our Library

I have lived in Monterey for thirty years, and love the town for so many reasons, but especially because of our town library and its amazing staff. Sadly, I will not be able to attend the town meeting, which has an article on the warrant that will provide funding for much-needed work on the library. Therefore, I want to express my support for the article and the funding for this vital resource. Although the article has a large dollar amount, library director Mark Makuc explained that the grants he hopes to secure will dramatically offset the amount.

We are so fortunate to have Mark, his staff, and a wonderful and welcoming library.

—Karen Shreefter Blair
Monterey, MA



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Candidate Statement
Donald S. Coburn
Finance Comm. and Planning Bd.

I am a candidate for membership on the finance committee and on the planning board. The Democratic Party has endorsed me for both jobs and the Republican Party has endorsed me for the planning board. I welcome their support.

After vacationing here for forty years, I retired and became a permanent resident in 2016.

I was born and raised in New York City, graduating from Cornell University and the University of Pennsylvania Law School. For two years after Cornell I served as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army, assigned as an instructor at the Guided Missile Department, Fort Sill, Oklahoma. During that time I married Ellen. We, and our two children, Jeff and Jim, lived for decades in Livingston, New Jersey. Ellen and I then lived in Morristown for eleven years until I retired.

After clerking for Chief Justice Joseph Weintraub of the New Jersey Supreme Court, I entered private practice. During the next ten years, I represented many clients in matters before municipal zoning boards and planning boards. I also served part-time as an assistant corporation counsel for Newark, and later as a councilman in Livingston, which also required membership for one year on the Livingston Planning Board. As councilman, I participated in the supervision and adoption of municipal budgets for three years.

I left the Livingston Council (and private practice) in 1978 when I was appointed Essex County Prosecutor by Governor Brendan Byrne. As chief law enforcement officer for Essex County, which includes Newark and numerous suburban towns, I administered an office consisting of about one hundred lawyers, one hundred detectives, and a fairly large support staff. Among my responsibilities was supervision of budget preparation and presentation of the budget to the county governing body.

Governor Byrne appointed me to the Superior Court of New Jersey in 1981, where I remained for over thirty-four years until my retirement in 2016. In 1996, the chief justice assigned me to the appellate division of the superior court. Both as a trial judge and as an appellate judge, I decided hundreds of cases involving decisions by planning boards, zoning boards, and municipal councils. I retired as a presiding judge in 2008 so that I could work on President Obama's campaign. A year later, I returned on recall for two years on the Appellate Division and then served for three years as a trial judge in Morris County.

There is one important aspect of appellate judging that is not often thought of by the general public, but which I think is worth mentioning— collegiality. Intermediate appellate judges usually sit in three-judge panels and not infrequently find that the issues presented evoke passionate disagreements among the judges. Resolution of those issues is greatly enhanced by collegiality. I would do my best to apply the skills I learned in the appellate division to achieving sound solutions for our town.

I want to comment briefly on my view of the role of the finance committee. Its primary task is "to advise and make recommendations to town meeting on the budget and other areas of finance." Its role has also been further described by the Massachusetts Division of Local Services Guide in this way: "The finance committee is the official watchdog for a town. Because it is difficult for all taxpayers to be completely informed about every aspect of a town's finances, finance committees were established so a representative group of taxpayers could conduct a thorough review of municipal finance questions on behalf of all citizens." To me this means that matters of financial policy are primarily submitted to the select board, subject, of course, to ultimate determination by the citizens at town meeting. The finance committee's main job is to add light and clarity to this process.

I ask for your vote because I think my past experiences provide a reasonable basis for the proposition that I can be useful to Monterey as a member of both the finance committee and the planning board.

—Don Coburn

Candidate Statement
Hillel Maximon-Town Clerk

I am neither the Democratic nor the Republican candidate for Town Clerk—just an independent neighbor willing and able to serve the townspeople of Monterey.

I have had three rewarding and successful parallel careers—as a professor of accounting and finance in major business schools around the world; as a university administrator, and as a consultant to small businesses. In short, I practice what I teach.

Amongst my administrative duties, I was a controller for the City University of New York—and as such, no stranger to getting things done in state government.

I am not new to Monterey—but if I win this election—I will be new to participating in its operations and management. Your vote will give me that opportunity. Thank you in advance for your support.

—Hillel Maximon

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Candidate Statement
Kenn Basler- Select Board

Why do I want to continue as a Monterey Selectman?

When I was first elected to this position I thought a three-year term represented just enough time to work on the issues and accomplish a number of goals. I was wrong. Three years didn't take into account the need to accomplish for today while preparing for the future. I approach problems differently now from three years ago, and I find myself looking for long-term solutions rather than quick fixes.

I also find myself using the term "vision" a lot these days. To me it's the ability to step outside the mainstream, look at what the problem is, bring together the right people to work on the problem, and then solve the problem. The Monterey Broadband Committee represents what I think "vision" is to a small town. Faced with technical and financial decisions far beyond the scope of normal town committee work, the select board recruited individuals with a variety of strengths and tasked them with procuring a high-speed internet solution to replace the town's failing to non-existent service, while at the same time keeping costs to the taxpayer in line. It was the diversity of opinion and approach to the problem that was the trigger to that "vision" thing. Not content with the state's role and direction, Monterey took the unusual position of going in three directions at the same time. Creating three different "looks" at one problem, and in doing so, opening a number of possible solutions. The diversity of thought among the committee members led to some very heated discussions, but also showed what, to me, is the real strength of Monterey. Residents willing to argue the good fight but also willing to compromise when it's in the best interest of the town—no grandstanding, just hard work, hours of meetings, constant frustration with the slow pace at the state level, but a gradual coming together towards a common goal. It's not the title or picture in the paper that's important, it's the hard work behind the scenes that makes it all come together, and I'm honored to be one member of this committee. We are weeks away from a final solution, but without this committee's dedication and vision we would still be years away.

The "vision " thing, or lack there of, is there for all to see in the workings of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District. The Monterey Select Board and Finance Committee took the unprecedented action this year to request that the residents at town meeting not approve this year's school budget. This problem has been simmering for the past number of years. The district has been hit by a shrinking school-age population, the closing of the Monterey School, and this year by the closure of the Egremont School. Our students and parents have been quietly showing us the way by choosing to attend schools outside the district. We now have 40% of our children "choicing" out of the district. While this has been going on, the cost to Monterey to fund the district has increased close to $100,000 during both of the past two years. There are five towns in the district, and we are governed by a district agreement that spells out in clear language what steps have to be taken for a school to close. This agreement, according to town counsel, was broken when they closed the Monterey school, and then again this year with the intent of closing the Egremont school.

Where is the vision? All the district is accomplishing is keeping the status quo while gradually sinking under rising costs and fewer students. I call it the band-aid approach. I hope to be working on this problem with my fellow select board member, Carol Edelman, who has agreed to take on this issue.

We've replaced our failing transfer station, Monterey has a new community center, we've replaced two bridges, rebuilt sixteen miles of roads, all projects that look ahead not back. It's what I try to do with all the decisions we face. The second cell tower needs to be completed; the renovations at the library will bring it, and the village, into the future; the Curtis Road bridge needs to be replaced. It turns out that three years is not enough time. If you share my vision I would be honored if you would entrust your vote to me. And if elected, I will spend the time and effort to work to accomplish the projects mentioned and others necessary for the smooth and positive governing of the town.

—Kenn Basler

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P.O. Box 9
Article 14–Milfoil Removal

Article 14 on the town warrant asks the town to spend $50,000 for milfoil control on Lake Garfield.

Last year the town voted to create a special tax district around Lake Garfield to raise money to care for the lake. However, the first vote was clouded by some technicalities, and when the proposal came up for a re-vote at a special meeting in October, it was heartily discussed, and then tabled.

That discussion at the special town meeting demonstrated both the lake-area residents' interests in managing the lake, and the general interest by townspeople to support the lake quality. One outcome of that process was the formation of a committee, the Lake Garfield Working Group (LGWG), to deliberately study the lake issues and recommend actions.

It is clear though, that the folks who live on or near the lake have a disproportionate interest in the lake quality, especially the milfoil issue, compared to the rest of the town residents. One "selling point" for the tax district was to help support owners' property values around the lake. And a strong tax base is important for the whole town. However, the way milfoil extraction supports these values is so that folks can go out into the lake directly from their yards, or their neighbors' properties, either to swim or to operate motorized vessels, without the tangle of milfoil growth. Aside from the town beach, this is not such a direct issue to the larger town.

So it made sense that the formation of a special tax district, modeled on Lake Buel's tax district (with the significant difference that Lake Garfield is only in one town), could raise most of the money for any remediation to be attempted, while the town could provide a smaller portion of the support. It would be a joint effort, shepherded by the select board.

A shift has taken place now. There's been no recent mention of resurrecting the special tax district proposal. The LGWG, and the select board, are now proposing that the entire town pay the whole cost for this initial attempt at milfoil control. This article asks that taxpayers throughout the whole town contribute to support the disproportionate interest of approximately one-quarter of the residences in town. It is very clear from the experiences at other area lakes that milfoil control has to be an on-going, annual effort, and this article would merely be the down payment on that effort. It is as though property owners along Main Road, concerned that their property values, and the use of their property, are being adversely affected by an invasion of dandelions, and so are looking to the town to foot the entire bill for dandelion eradication only along Main Road. If you have dandelions in your grass that you don't want, you know it is an ongoing battle. (I am not trying to equate milfoil with dandelions, just trying to reframe the issue.)

I feel strongly, as I suggested in a letter after last fall's special town meeting, and as I suggested to the LGWG at a meeting, that a mechanism should be created whereby those with the greatest interest pay the majority of costs. It is not that the rest of the town is disinterested in the "health of the lake" (a definition of which has thus far eluded the LGWG). It is that the costs and the benefits must be shared proportionately.

The LGWG has worked earnestly on becoming educated about the lake. They have met in warned and open meetings with scientists and activists with varied knowledge and experience. They have been very diligent in trying to inform and involve the town through their monthly articles and in creating an online repository, through the town website, of what they have learned. But in doing all of this, I believe the political and financial questions around shifting the whole cost of this work from a more directly affected group to the town as a whole have not been addressed.

My wife and I are not able to attend town meeting due to a regular commitment out-of-state each year on that weekend. But it is my hope that if this article passes, it is with the clear context that a way will be found to share the necessarily ongoing expense of this effort so that folks who most directly benefit bear the larger portion of the expenses.

If this issue concerns you, the LGWG is having an informational meeting on May 1, at 7 p.m., in the town hall.

—Stephen Moore

Note: This letter is my opinion, and should not be read as an editorial opinion by the Monterey News.

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P.O. Box 9
Town Administrator Resignation

The following are minutes from the February 27 finance committee meeting and explains the real reason our new town administrator resigned. Need I say more...

"Willie Morales came to the meeting to discuss the point raised at the February 6 meeting regarding sharing the administrator and town administrative assistant's salary and benefits. As it stands now the town is paying for two benefits packages. The finance committee discussed with Willie ways to alleviate this issue.

"Willie then informed the committee that he plans to resign as the part-time town administrator effective on Wednesday, March 1, at the select board meeting. He has concerns with how the town is being run. He feels that the select board is improperly using their authority and will not follow Massachusetts General Law. He is concerned that staying in this position could damage his future career plans. Willie is the procurement officer and the town will be out of compliance when he leaves. He has contacted the MA Inspector General's Office regarding this matter. He has also been working closely with James Podolak at the department of revenue who is aware of the issues here. He will inform Mr. Podolak of his resignation on Wednesday. Willie is concerned that town counsel is representing the wishes of the select board and not the needs of the town.

"When Willie resigns, the finance committee will resume the administering of the budget process. All departments must work with the finance committee for budgetary concerns. Willie will send the Excel documents with the budget information to Don Clawson.

"Willie also informed the committee that the accountant and treasurer will possibly resign as well. Alice Boyd who is working with the town on the Community Block Grant has concerns as well and may not pursue the grant with the town.

"The finance committee is concerned and very disappointed by this news as they felt that Willie was an important member of the administration of the town and recommends that exit interviews be held with Willie and if necessary, with the accountant and treasurer. They recommend that these interviews be administered by an impartial person or committee."

—Rudy Gero

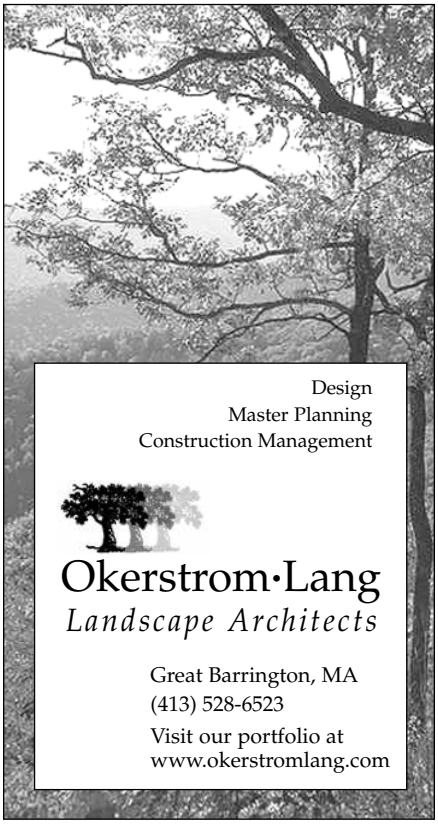
Community Potluck May 17
Interior Design

At the April potluck, Wendy Germain did a great job of culling from her *thirty-eight* hours of interviews to show us a sampling, including interviews with members of Gould Farm, Joe Baker and Cara Carroll talking about the Community Center, Shirley and Storrs Olds, Barbara and Dick Tryon and Dick's sister Martha Race, George Emmons talking about his mentor David McAllester, discussion of the beginning of the Monterey Land Trust, and the interns from Bidwell House, to name a few. It really whet my appetite to see a whole interview, and they may be available by the end of the summer on individual DVDs at the library. Kudos to Wendy for her efforts and success.

For the next potluck, we have local interior designer Erica Fay, who will present a mini workshop,"Three Essential Keys to Create a Home with Heart", on interior design. Erica has been a professional interior designer for decades, and she says she can, "Help you learn to create an interior environment that supports and reflects your unique self."

The next, and last, of the season's Monterey Community Potluck Dinners, will be held on May 17, in the Fellowship Hall of the Monterey Meetinghouse, at 6 p.m. Please bring a dish to share with a serving utensil, a place setting, and silverware for yourself. Everyone is welcome.

—Kyle Pierce



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Skunny Wundy and the Stinging Notes

You know those tussocks of grass that stick up out of the swamp? They are really the heads of witches, and here is the story. I heard it from my dad, when we used to go walking in the swamp here at the east end of Lake Garfield. There were places where you could try to jump from tussock to tussock to keep your feet dry, but it was not easy. Tussocks are tall and unstable and when your foot slides off you find yourself up to the ankle, at least, in mighty wet mud. We have a wigwam down there and used to like to make a little fire and hear stories, like the ones about Skunny Wundy the Iroquois* boy. He rid the land of stone giants and helped his people when they had all sorts of problems. At one time, there was trouble from the stinging notes.

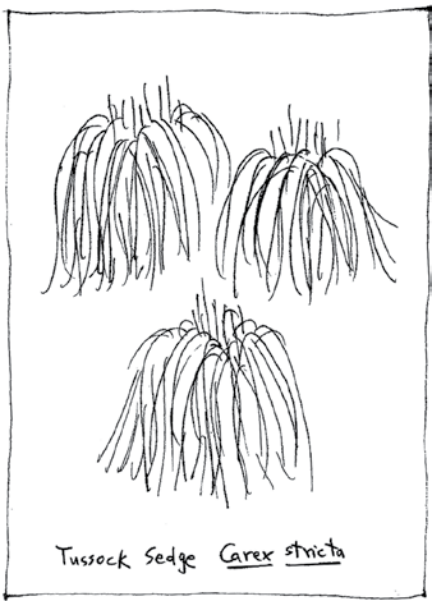
Witches lived in the swamp and they would sing. They lived right in the very wet places, many of them close together, and they raised up out of the water and sang their songs, letting loose clouds of notes that went zinging off to wherever there were people. These notes would sting people, and cause a lot of trouble, like a big cloud of hornets.

Skunny Wundy studied the problem and realized that during the day the witches pulled down under water with only the tops of their heads sticking out. This was when they rested, breathing under water. At night they would stand up and sing, sending forth those notes. Skunny Wundy got an idea and went to a place he knew about where there was a hole in the ground and oil down at the bottom. He lowered a birchbark bucket on a rope and hauled up some oil. This he carried to the swamp and poured out on the water, where it floated in a thin film, practically invisible.

The thin film of oil hampered the witches in their breathing underwater. They became sleepy, as if in hibernation, and never stood up out of the water to sing those stinging notes again. But the witches are still there, and you can see the tops of their tall heads sticking up. If you stand on one or wiggle it, you will jostle the witch and may cause her to let out some bubbles, which you can see coming up through the mud and water. Fortunately, she can only breathe a little, and cannot sing anymore.

Some people have other explanations for these grassy tussocks, and some tussocks occur on rather drier ground, on the edges of wet places, or even in one case right on the lawn of a friend of mine, near the lake. I went to take a look at it. I wiggled it, but no bubbles came because it was not in water or soupy mud. I reached around under the edges of its "hair" and found many a mouse tunnel, so I realized this was a wonderful safe home for meadow mice, which are also called voles.

The tussock looks like the top of the head of a long-headed blonde witch, with straight hair lying down in all directions



from the crown. Right now there is some new hair growing and it is short and green. This is a grass-like plant called a sedge. Where I once worked we used to teach the kids "sedges have edges," also that the stalk of a sedge is triangular in cross-section. These two things can help you tell a sedge from a grass, also remind you not to go walking in the swamp with bare legs.

There are other differences between sedges and grasses, some having to do with the flowers. The flower stalks of the sedges will be showing up soon, now that new growth is up, but the real clear characteristic for identifying them any time of the year is the tussocky way they grow. The tussocks stick up well above the wet parts of the swamp and make a good dry nest place for the meadow mice or voles. Meadow mice, *Microtus pennsylvanicus*, look like miniature muskrats with short tails. They almost never come in peoples' houses.

Like their muskrat relatives, meadow mice are good swimmers. They may find a safe place in the high part of a tall tussock in a swamp, but they will have to swim to find food and in the spring rains they may get flooded out.

If you find yourself near some tussocks, try feeling around under the "skirt" or the long hair. There are bound to be tunnels there. There will also be the story of Skunny Wundy and the stinging notes.

—Bonner McAllester

**Iroquois* was the French name for the Six Nations, or Haudenosaunee people.

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Monterey Cultural Council
Free Concert May 26

Please join us for the "Spring Into Song" concert, featuring the Berkshire Country Day School Vocal Ensemble. The concert will be on May 26, at 7 p.m., at the Monterey Meetinghouse. The one-hour performance will feature solo, duet, trio, and full-ensemble performances from the talented students at Berkshire Country Day school's grades seven, eight, and nine.

The concert is underwritten by the Massachusetts and Monterey Cultural Council funds.

—Wendy Benjamin
Monterey Cultural Council

Monterey Graduates

The following profiles show just a brief snapshot of the future plans and high school highlights of two of the high school seniors currently living in Monterey.

Jacob Makuc is the son of John and Cynthia Makuc of Monterey. Jacob will be attending the University of Connecticut at Storrs this fall where he will focus his studies on diagnostic genetics, and hopefully get a chance to study abroad. At Mt. Everett High School, Jacob enjoyed being a member of the cross country team for six years. Another notable activity is Jacob's service as a junior volunteer firefighter in Monterey. Some of Jacob's fondest memories of Monterey include time spent at the Monterey kindergarten. Jacob will be graduating with *cum laude* honors on June 3 in the Koussevitzky Shed at Tanglewood in Lenox, MA.

Steve Graves

Thanks to mild weather and eager players, spring training baseball for South Berkshire County Cal Ripken League players started early in April at Monterey's Greene Park. Pictured are players from the Monterey Blasters as they prepare for the 2017 season. The season starts in early May, with games against Lee and Lenox, and lasts through mid-June. —*Steve Graves*

Kayne Wellauer is the son of Peter and Shannon Wellauer of Monterey. Kayne is planning to attend the University of Massachusetts Amherst this fall where he will be in the engineering program. Outside of his time spent at Monument Mountain High School, Kayne has spent almost three years working at Domaney's in Great Barrington. Kayne will be graduating on June 4 in the Koussevitzky Shed at Tanglewood in Lenox, MA.

Do you know of any other high school seniors graduating this spring that live in Monterey? Contact Marya Makuc at makuc.marya@gmail.com to include a profile for June's issue.

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Knox Gallery May News

Color Prints by Joan Dix Blair

Color Prints, by Joan Dix Blair, opened at Knox Gallery in late April. This accomplished artist will speak about her work on Friday, May 5, at 5:30 p.m. The talk will be followed by a reception from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Please join us for the evening. Blair's talk will be quite informative, as she will point out and describe the different printmaking mediums exhibited, including monotype, etching, drypoint, and woodcut. She will bring plates that she has printed from as examples.

Blair works entirely in printmaking, using traditional methods of etching and woodcut. As she put it, "The plate itself is the necessary intermediary between my hand and the image."

Although the artist, a Williamstown resident, works with abstraction, she is inspired by observations from nature, and in particular the Berkshire environment, which she considers to be a catalyst for her artwork. "The beauty of the landscape gives me a sense of place, both in my life and in my prints," she says. Blair appreciates support from the strong printmaking history and culture of the Northampton region, where she is a member of Zea Mays Printmaking and Oxbow Galleries.

Please mark your calendars for this opening on May 5, the evening before the annual town meeting. The exhibit will be on display through June 3, 2017.

My Indigo Manuscript (above), Hot Little Bookmark (right), © Joan Dix Blair.

Thank you to the Massachusetts and Monterey Cultural Councils for supporting our artists' talks.

All exhibits can be viewed during library hours. Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, MontereyMassLibrary.org/knox-gallery/

452 Main Road, Monterey, MA, 413-528-3795. Facebook.com/Knox Gallery. @Knox_Gallery on Twitter.

—MaryPaul Yates

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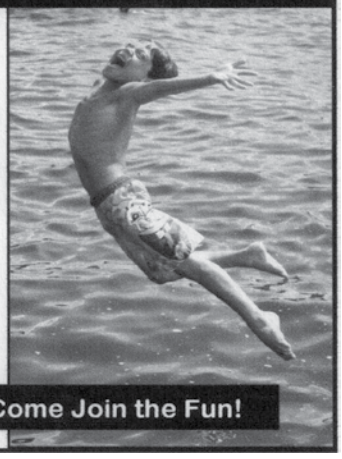

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My Origins

I am from wandering ancestors—unwanted and unallowed people.
I am from the wrong place at the wrong time, from a terrible dark camp that is finally free.
I am from convincing business people.
I am from passed down recipes and jewelry.
I am from great people who agree with the rights of their country.
I am from traveling people who have been around the world.
I am from the cold places in the east.
I am from gray days with splashes of color to light my way.
I am from downs and ups—a bumpy journey to final freedom.
I am from people who were kicked out—then invited to a faraway kingdom.
I am from explorers who find their hopes, dreams, and wishes.

—Sophia Estreicher
10 years old

Here Again (for C.)

we're here again
scurrying and squirreling away
all the good nuts of the day
all underneath
that great old apple moon, cabbage moon
no regrets, glad to be schooled
dry sweat in the breasts' relief
and what dear woman
do you prove your worth with willingly?
cooking, cleaning, planting, and filling these rooms with children?
your womb carried
your arms held and tutored until
they could make their own way to spill
into the fray unharried
and so here we are again
tabling and fabling away
blessing you on your blessed way
grand-kid looking for you
leaves falling,
amen.

—Boney Oscar

Maureen Banner

This late-winter robin and its flock will be joined by all its distant cousins soon.

A rose-breasted grosbeak, by Bonsai Cox.

Our Community Center
Project Timeline

Now that the community center, after years of effort, has opened, the *Monterey News* suggested publishing a timeline of the project, with photos, to demonstrate the scope of the effort. This timeline may become available on the center's website, ccmonterey.org, in the future.

1995 (#1) Edith Lavinia Wilson passes away and leaves her 28.6 acre property, including the house, to the town, with conditions but without any endowment. Oil painting by Edith L. Wilson

1996 (#2) Town votes to accept Wilson's bequest; select board appoints first Wilson-McLaughlin House (WMH) committee.

Cynthia Webber

2004 After several plans that did not "take," and after numerous personnel changes, the WMH creates plan to incorporate a private nonprofit to raise money and fix the WMH for a community center.

2005 (#3) The Friends of the Wilson-McLaughlin House (FWMH) incorporated and granted tax-exempt 501c3 status; select board and FWMH sign five-year lease for the house. (left to right) Michael Storch, Shirley Olds, Lew Scheffey, Michele Miller, Jon Sylbert.

2006 Architect searched and hired, and a plan created, but deemed too expensive by the people. (#4) Seed money was raised by the first tag sale. FWMH asks the town to petition probate court for relief from some provisions of will.

2008 Probate court agrees with the petition, but at this time even building a new structure is too expensive.

2009 FWMH decides to renovate existing WMH. Zoning board of appeals grants permission for a community center on property. (#5) New roof installed.

2010 (#6) Ruth Green spearheads the start of a community garden; town meeting votes to fund driveway and parking. New 5-year lease signed.

2011 (#7) Hazardous materials are removed from WMH; driveway created. Lead-painted clapboards were removed.

2012 Capital campaign underway.

2013 (#8) Interior demolition, Roy Carwile; town meeting awards $45k to MCC project; first Octoberfest.

2014 (#9) Basement floor leveled, (#10) foundation strengthened, (#11) basement floor poured, (#12) and subfloor work; steel beams to support second floor; $40k grant awarded by MA Cultural Council.

2015 (#13) Insulated wall panels installed; (#14) the building wrapped, new windows installed; interior carpentry, electric, plumbing, entryway foundation. New five-year lease.

2016 (#15) Siding and exterior trim complete; (#16) interior finish woodwork, Stephen Moore; (#17) landscaping and handicap drive by Tryon Construction and town highway employees; (#18) Mark Amstead and sons vounteered to install the oak flooring. Furnace installed, interior insulation. Town awards $40k, MA Cultural Council $25k. New septic system funded by MA Cultural Council capital grant.

2017 (#19) Staircase completed, final details and inspection. MCC put into public use beginning April 12, 2017

All photos by Joe Baker unless otherwise noted.

>

Our Community Center

Friends of Wilson McLaughlin House, Inc. Directors

- Joe Baker, President
- Michael Banner, Vice-President
- Evelyn Vallianos, Treasurer
- Laurie Shaw, Secretary
- Cara Carroll
- Christine Goldfinger
- Mary Makuc
- Cynthia Weber

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- Shaylan Burkhart
- Jim Edelman
- Ruth Green
- Georgiana O'Connell
- Shirley Olds
- Lew Scheffey
- Susan Sellew
- Gerry Shapiro

Architect

- Steve McAlister (Clark & Green Architects)

Engineers

- William Barry – basement design
- James Grant – steel beam reinforcements

Contractors

- Mark D. Amstead – carpentry
- Baystate Contracting – hazmat and lead removal
- Kronenberger & Sons – basement and subfloor
- Dublin Steel – steel reinforcements
- Eric Pedersen – carpentry
- Andrus Power Solutions – electric system
- Carlson Heating – heating system
- LeProvost Plumbing – plumbing system
- Tryon Construction – landscaping, septic system

Christine Christinat

The already-famous pumpkin roll at the first Octoberfest in 2014.

From the Meetinghouse

I Hate It When They Do That!

"They put the roll on the spindle the wrong way again, Sterling. I hate it when they do that!"

It's not much of a problem for you and me when we can't unroll the toilet paper all over the room, and chase the roll down the stairs. But, details aside, we do run into the same kind of dilemma Tally and Sterling have in the photo. Now and again, some stubborn-somebody-elses insist on doing things their way, not ours. Don't you hate it when they do that?

I mean, who do they think they are? Don't they know that you, and I, have it all figured out? All they'd have to do is just open their minds a little. Hpmh.

Wait a minute. Now frustration and self-righteousness are back in control. Is that really my goal? My arms are crossed in front of my belly and I have a stomach-ache. My face feels tight and pinched. I'm right there with my own version of Alan Jay Lerner's lyrics for Professor Higgins, toward the end of *My Fair Lady.* He sings his frustration at Eliza Doolittle's emotional nature:

"If I was a woman who'd been to a ball,
Been hailed as a princess by one and all.
Would I run off and never tell me where I'm going?
Why can't a woman be like me?"

You've been there, too, right? But that isn't really how I want to feel. You probably don't, either.

Rumor has it that joy's lots more about attitude than circumstances. It sounds simplistic, but we could try taking a few deep breaths. Not that we'll expect it to make any huge difference, but let's give our bodies a break and give it a try.

Mary Kate Jordan

This afternoon I heard a man tell about his first writing retreat.

"You'll love it," his more-experienced friends said. "You'll get to sit outdoors and write. You'll be so inspired!"

"I hated it," he said. "There were ants, all kinds of things. I sat in my room and wrote. But today, I'm so happy to have the windows open, hear the spring sounds, and feel the breeze. I feel like I'm outdoors while I'm still protected, indoors."

I like his attitude. He took care of himself at the writing retreat. He appreciates the deepening springtime, and honors his chosen boundaries. Next time I think somebody metaphorically put the toilet paper on the spindle the "wrong" way, I'm going to take him as my mentor instead of Professor Higgins. I'll probably feel a lot more comfortable in my skin that way. Care to join me?

—Mary Kate Jordan

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Monterey Library News

Do you know what it's like to hide five hundred eggs? The Friends of the Monterey Library do and they did another great job hiding them inside and outside the library. Special thanks to the Coffee Club for financing this wonderful event. With that many eggs all the children were able to find some. Another special thanks to Officer Fredsall of the Monterey Police for making this a safe event.

Thanks to everyone who came to view the plans and discuss the proposed renovation and addition to the library at our open house. We felt it was important for you to have all the facts to make an informed decision at town meeting on May 6, and again at the election on May 9. If you were unable to attend, check out the library website. The documents are on the site and include the financing plan the bank has proposed, frequently asked questions, and of course, the design of the construction. We have tried to involve the whole town along the way and we welcome your comments and questions. Feel free to ask any trustee or the staff if you would like to better understand how we got here. We want to know your thoughts and concerns.

—Mark Makuc
Library Director
MontereyMassLibrary.org

It was a beautiful day for an Easter egg hunt. The race was on! And at least one hunter was appropriately dressed as a pink bunny. *—Photos by Steven Weisz*

Spring Croquet Anyone?

On a sunny fall day, eight friends, all members of the Monterey community, met to play croquet. The event was so successful, they decided that croquet should be played regularly, and Sunday community croquet was born.

The Monterey Community Center has an ideal section of lawn for the course. Won't you join us Sunday, May 28, at noon, and on most Sundays this coming summer? We'll be there if the weather's fine. Bring a picnic, spend a couple of hours playing, or simply visit with friends and neighbors.

—Maggie Barkin

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The *Monterey News* board thanks everyone who helps fund our paper all year long. The annual appeal generates the majority of our income that sustains the paper for twelve issues each year. It is worth noting for newer readers that the *Monterey News* has published each month since 1970 without paid subscriptions, and that the advertising income does little more than pay for the space the ads take up. Approximately two-thirds of our monthly editions are sent by mail, which expands the meaning of Monterey's community to include folks from all over.

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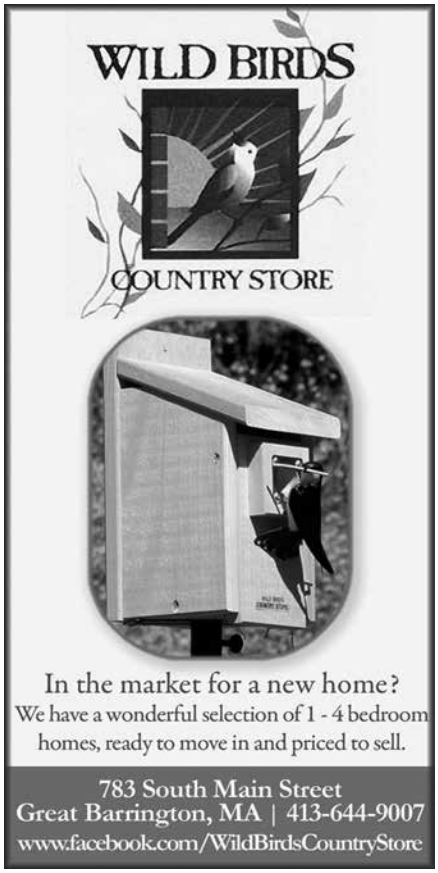
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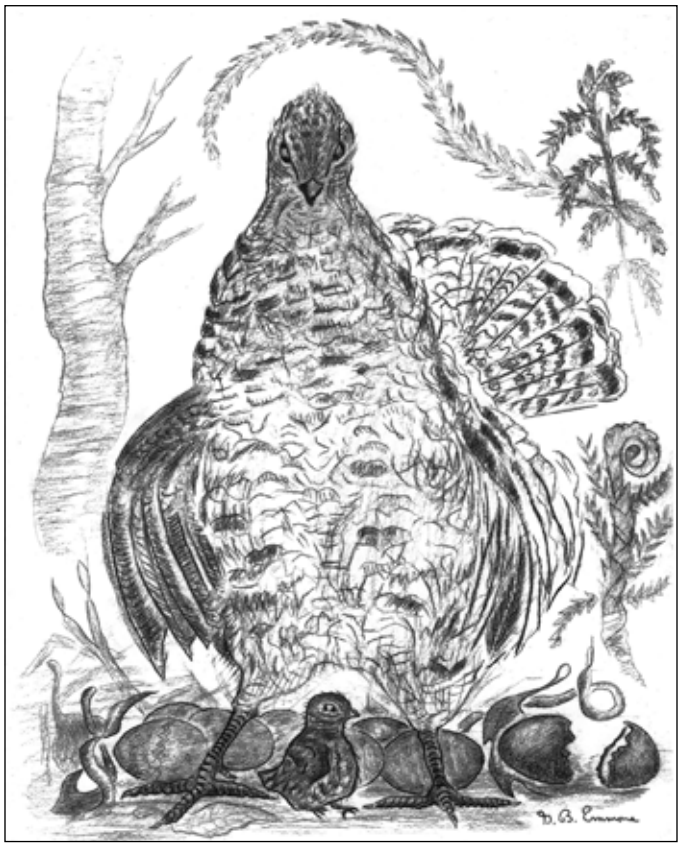
Mother Nature's Nest Egg

The month of May in Monterey holds many wonderful memories for me of the mating, nesting, and hatching of ground nesting birds. Often their rituals begin with spectacular courtship displays. During the migratory woodcock's aerial evening courtship dance the male circles several hundred feet up over the female and, as love is in the air, sings to her with a gentle "peent, peent, peent" until at the apex of his flight he suddenly spirals down to the nesting site where she awaits. This may be witnessed at the edge of Lowland Farm fields, along the Wellman Road past Gould Farm, around Steadman Pond, or the lower meadow of the Bidwell House Museum. The hen will lay four speckled eggs in a shallow hollow perfectly camouflaged for privacy, but if she feels the nest has been discovered by an intruder, she is able to pick each egg up separately between her legs and move them, one by one, to a more secret location, a wonderful example of innovative motherhood.

Very often in woodlands one can hear the classic spring ritual of a male partridge as he mounts the macho podium of a hollow log for acoustic drumming. He will raise his torso up straight and with forty wing beats per second sound forth a feathery tattoo to hopefully impress the receptive hen nearby. A cock pheasant will similarly beat its chest at the edge of a farmland hedgerow for the same effect, just as a barnyard rooster at dawn will sound out a crowing announcement of a new day to reproduce, much like Chaucer's Chanticleer. The partridge hen so inspired will complete laying all her eggs, which will be ready to hatch in just twenty-one days. In my drawing the proud mother also looks concerned about her first offspring because a few hours after hatching the chick will be ready to take off on its own, perfectly matched to camouflage to wood chips and ferns, and able to fend and find food by itself.

Meanwhile, further up Rawson Brook, above the Wallace Hall waterfall, is one of the few local waters where the truly native brook trout are hatching out, after almost six months of development from their autumn spawning when the female shallowed out a nest in fine gravel, called a *redd*, while the male hovered overhead to fertilize the roe with his sperm, called *milt*. The female moves upstream from the redd and, using her tail again, covers her eggs with more fine gravel. Before hatching each egg develops characteristic dark spots, which is referred to as "eying-up," as these are the beginning of their eye development. They also grow a tiny tail to be ready to swim away from Winter's casement.

At the Berkshire National Fish Hatchery we learned that each fingerling going forth is also already imprinted with the



biological and chemical content of its home waters, absorbed during this time, as well as having gauged the temperature and quality of light to relocate to the same, or a similar pool, of its origin.

Mother nature's nest egg is a vital spheroid cell of reproduction for mammals, birds, reptiles, and fish. Before Rachel Carson's book *Silent Spring*, we learned the hard way just how sensitive some eggs may be. Her environmental whistle-blowing publication about the impact of DDT, which weakened birds' shells, causing them to become too thin to survive to hatching, helped us understand some of the hidden impacts of human behavior on wildlife. With artistic license, following up on the native belief that all life on Earth is sacred, even the smallest blade of grass, I have drawn a blade of grass genuflecting over the life-giving miracle of a hatching egg.

Best regard to all wildlife readers, writers, and artists.

—George B. Emmons

George's drawings are available for sale in the general store, and from the coffee club in the church basement. The proceeds go to a scholarship fund for the fish hatchery.

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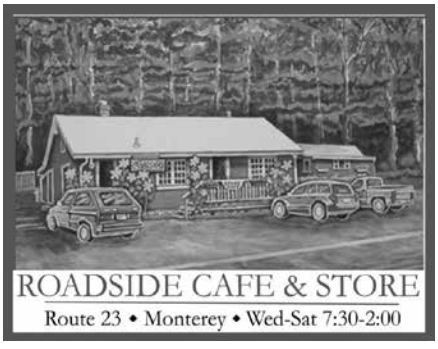

Monterey Police Report
Mid-March to Mid-April

On the Prowl

Two reports of mystery raccoons acting strangely, one in the vicinity of the Monterey General Store, and the other in a basement on Main Road. Neither animal could be found, so it could not be determined whether or not they were wearing masks.

A deer was hit and severely injured in late March on Main Road and had to be put down.

April 7: Similar to last month, loose cows were reported on Fairview Road, taking in the sights heading towards Main Road. On April 18 there were four cows alongside the intersection of Main Road and Fairview Road. Apparently this is a popular hang-out for prowling cows.

Dogs were out and about as well, including one that fell through the ice in a pond off Hupi Road. The pooch was out about fifteen feet and treading water, but couldn't get out. The resourceful officer made a lasso and got it around the dog's neck and front paw so he could keep his head above water while waiting for a member of the fire company to arrive in a dry suit and pull the dog in. The dog sustained no injuries. Who knew we have cowboy-trained officers?

On April 16 an officer responded to a dumped couch at Brewer Pond Dam. The next day an officer responded to a fire extinguisher on the loose in the middle of Main Road. These are the things people want to read about.

Missing Briefly, Not Lost

One husband worried his wife enough that an officer responded to her distress call. As the officer was speaking with the wife, the husband called to say he was on his way home.

In another case, a hiker who had not returned from a hike appeared just as the officer was gathering information. Apparently, timing is everything.

Vehicular Incidents

In late March someone reported a car parked in New Marlboro Road near Harmon Road. The driver was asked to park off the road for safety's sake. Several days later a person was observed parked and acting suspiciously at the Lake Buel boat launch. Turned out intoxication was involved, and an arrest ensued.

April 13: A call was received concerning downed wires on River Road. As the officer walked down the road it was discovered that two utility poles had been broken and there were more wires down. Turns out a tractor trailer truck had passed through and hooked onto the low-hanging cables, pulling them and the poles down. The resident reported the name of the trucking company. A short while later the truck was seen on Main Road and was stopped. The driver said he was searching for a spot to use his cell phone. He was told he should've stayed on River Road. It's not clear whether this indicates better cell reception along River Road or not.

Medical and Alarm Calls

Three medicals were responded to, along with the fire company, and in each case folks were transported to the hospital by the Southern Berkshire Ambulance.

Three possible smoke alarms were reported. One was cancelled, another had the fire department investigating an odor from a furnace, and the last was a first-world problem—an alarm on a hot tub.

Watch Out

Phone scam: A caller reported a phone scam. A call had been received from someone claiming to be from the IRS and they stated they had an arrest warrant for her. The police would like you to know that you can file complaints with the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at 1-800-366-4484. You can also file a complaint using the FTC Complaint Assistant at FTCcomplaintassistant.gov. Choose "Scams and Rip-offs" and then "Imposter Scams." If the complaint involves someone impersonating the IRS, include the words "IRS Telephone Scam" in the notes.

Home rental scam: An owner on Beartown Mountain Road called in a complaint about a tenant. The officer met with the home owners and saw how much damage was done, including damage caused by the tenant's dog. Apparently this person looks for homes to rent on VRBO—Vacation Rentals By Owners. They ask for short term rentals, don't pay the rent, and cause substantial damage. Second home owners beware.

Tampering: A call from a resident on Sandisfield Road reported someone tampering with his electrical control system. The party was advised to contact the fire department for a Knox Box. The control box could be secured and the fire department could have access in an emergency.

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Bidwell House Museum
2017 Season Program

The Bidwell House Museum, the Berkshires' own colonial history museum, has announced its 2017 season program. The museum is celebrating the extensive restoration of the 1760s historic house, including replacement over the winter months of the cedar shingle roof.

To welcome visitors back to the rural hilltop site of the original early settlement, the museum is featuring a series of events focused on life in the Berkshires and New England in the time of the first English settlers. The popular history lecture series returns with talks by professor John Demos, Bernhard Drew, Gary Leveille, and Rene Wendell. The museum is also expanding its offerings of nature programs.

The museum will open for the season on Memorial Day. Tours of the homestead tell the story of the early settlement of the Berkshires and of life on the frontier. The house is open Thursday to Monday, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., with tours on the hour. The museum grounds—192 acres of flower and heritage vegetable gardens, woods, fields, historic stonewalls, trails, and picnic sites—are open all year free of charge. The program of events can be found on the museum's website: bidwellhousemuseum.org

Highlights of the season are the opening on Sunday, May 28; the Township No. 1 Day community celebration of local history on Saturday, July 8; and the festive garden party benefiting the museum on August 5.

The Bidwell House Museum is a New England heritage site providing a personal encounter with history, early American home life, and the Berkshire landscape through its land, house, and collection. The museum is a nonprofit educational institution for the benefit of the community and today's audiences of all ages, dedicated to preservation, scholarship, and enjoyment of the landmark site.

2017 Season Program Schedule

Programs take place at the Bidwell House Museum, 100 Art School Road, Monterey, unless otherwise noted.

May 28: Concert and opening reception. *Amazing Stories from Centuries Past*. See page 27.

June 4: *Birding Beyond Your Backyard*, with Doug Bruce and Tom Ryan. Designed for beginning birders who would like to expand their birding knowledge. Free. 9 to 11 a.m.

June 17: *Archaeology on Bidwell Grounds*. What treasures lie outside the Reverend's door? Professor Eric Johnson will talk about how this work is done, examples from other eighteenth-century homes, and what he found at the museum. Members: $10. Non-members: $15. 10 a.m.

July 1: History Talk: *Massachusetts–New York Border "Wars" in the 1700s.* Gary Leveille, Berkshires historian and author, on the fifty years of boundary battles among the early Dutch and English settlers on both sides of the elusive border. Held at Tyringham Union Church, Main Road, Tyringham. Members: $10. Non-members: $15. 10 a.m.

July 8: Township No. 1 Day. A free community celebration of Tyringham and Monterey history. Colonial re-enactors, live music by local musicians, children's activities, historic craft demonstrations, author talks, and more.

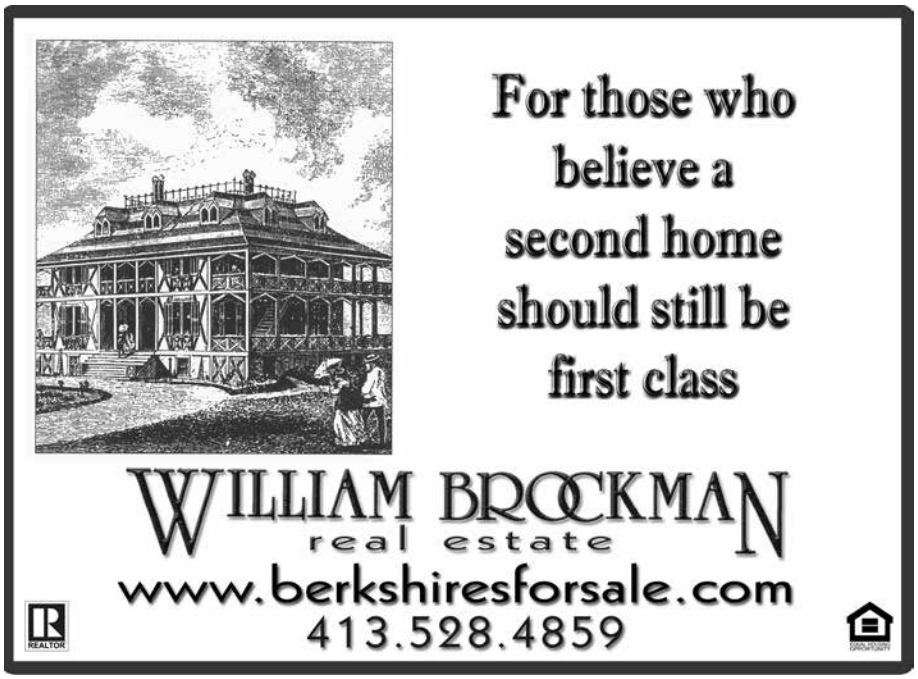
Supported in part by a grant from the Monterey and Tyringham Cultural Councils. 1 to 4 p.m. Free. Please note that the museum is closed for tours this day.

July 15: History Talk: *Native Americans in South County.* Rene Wendell, land steward for the Nature Conservancy, will talk about prehistoric evidence of Native American life and discuss the first contacts of white settlers with the Mohican tribe in South County. Held at Tyringham Union Church, Main Road, Tyringham. Members: $10. Non-members: $15. 10 a.m.

July 29: History Talk: *Travels with Satan: My Fifty Years as a Witchcraft Historian.* A talk by John Demos. His book *Entertaining Satan: Witchcraft and the Culture of Early New England* (1982) won the Bancroft Prize. He published The *Enemy Within: A Short History of Witch-Hunting* in 2008. Held at Tyringham Union Church, Main Road, Tyringham. Members: $10. Non-members: $15. 10 a.m.

August 5: Garden party to benefit the museum. Live music by the O-Tones, cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, silent and live auction at a magical Berkshire property. 4 to 7 p.m. For tickets call 413-528-6888.

August 19: History Talk: *Cuffee Negro, Berkshires' First Black Real Estate Agent*. Berkshires historian Bernard A. Drew will tell the story of the most unlikely of real estate speculators, Cuffee Negro, also known as Cuffee Van Schaack, who bought and sold land in Stockbridge and vicinity during the eighteenth century. Held at Tyringham Union Church, Main Road, Tyringham. Members: $10. Non-members: $15. 10 a.m.



September 9: *Gravestone Art in Monterey's Old Cemeteries*, a talk and walk with historical archaeologist Bob Drinkwater, an expert on New England tombstone carvers. Members: $10. Non-members: $15. 10 a.m.

September 16: Housatonic Heritage Walk: *Nature in Autumn*, a talk and walk with Tom Tyning, professor of environmental science at Berkshire Community College. Free. 10 a.m.

September 23: Housatonic Heritage Walk: *Camera Trapping—An Up Close Look at Wildlife*. Richard Greene will explain wildlife tracking using trail cameras. Free. 10 a.m.

September 30: Housatonic Heritage Walk: *Tracing Native and Settler Histories on the Landscape.* Explore the Native American presence that pre-dated early settler history—this was not the "howling wilderness" often portrayed. Led by Rob Hoogs. Free. 10 a.m.

November 18: Colonial Thanksgiving party. Benefit for the museum with live music, refreshments, silent auction and good cheer. For tickets call 413-528-6888.

Bidwell House Museum
Season Opening Concert

The Bidwell House Museum is opening with a concert and reception on Sunday, May 28, at 3 p.m. Singer-songwriter Diane Taraz will perform *Musical History—Amazing Stories from Centuries Past*, a selection of songs from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries in celebration of the completed restoration of the 1760s historic house. The public is invited and refreshments will be served.

Diane Taraz sings ballads from the folk tradition and her own songs that tell true stories of people and events from the past. Enjoy songs about love affairs gone wrong; women warriors in disguise; loves lost to war, shipwreck, and rattlesnakes; and a variety of ballads and ditties that capture amazing history that deserves to be re-lived.

Diane wears the clothing of the time and accompanies her singing on an instrument similar to the now-extinct English guitar played by colonial ladies.

A Pittsfield native, Diane has long made her home in the Boston area, performing extensively throughout New England. She is the director of the Lexington Historical Society Colonial Singers and a longtime member of the Gloucester Hornpipe & Clog Society, a traditional band that plays maritime, celtic, and colonial music. She also sings with Vox Lucens, a twelve-member a cappella Renaissance choir, and the UUlations, a women's a cappella group. Her recordings are available through her website at dianetaraz.com.

Refreshments will be served to toast the opening of the season and celebrate completion of Phase I of the museum's restoration. All are invited to join.

There is a suggested donation of $15 (free for members of the museum) for attendance at the concert. The Bidwell House Museum is located at 100 Art School Road. For more information, please call 413-528-6888 or go to bidwellhousemuseum.org.

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Wildlife Report,
Mid-March to Mid-April

The big creatures in the news this month are bears and moose. Late in March Wendy Jensen saw a moose right by the Monterey-Otis town line, and while stopped to admire it, she learned from another spotter that the animal had been in the area for several days. A week later, Joe and Cora Baker reported a trail of big fresh moose tracks down Cora's driveway, which is on E. Hupi Road, close to that Otis line.

A couple of miles away, at about the same time, Michael and Maureen Banner found new bear tracks on their deck and got a fine photograph. (See next page.)They also found their suet feeder in disarray, but the suet left uneaten, which they ascribe to its having been laced with red pepper.

Steve Snyder writes that the bears are up and about at Gould Farm, prompting the folks to reinstall their electric fence wire around the dumpster. This may be a better deterrent than red pepper, though we hear from Russ Wilson that the beehives at the Monterey Community Center were visited in February by bears despite the electric fence set up to protect them.

We have a remarkable cat and bear story from Libby Wolf on Beartown Mountain Road. A young bear came trotting along the road as Libby worked in the yard one day in mid-April, passed her right by, and ran up a tree. This bear was chased up there by Libby's cat, who went right up after it to a height of about twenty feet. The bear was a good climber, so escaped injury.

Suzanne Sawyer has seen bears twice in one week at her place on Main Road, also chipmunks and red squirrels. In the mammals department, Maureen Banner got good photographs of fisher tracks in the snow early in April (below).

Maureen Banner

Here on E. Hupi Road we have spotted salamander spermatophores in Cora Baker's pond, but no egg masses visible. Steve Snyder says salamanders have been on the move around Gould Farm. Folks have been hearing spring peepers, also wood frogs. Besides this, Maureen Banner alerted me to a big dark snake, killed on Fairview Road up by the swampy places. I went to take a look and found it was a northern water snake, nearly black on top but with wonderful patterns on the sides and belly. It was forty inches long.

This is spring. Steve Snyder lists the Gould Farm area birds: barn swallows, a phoebe, a partridge or ruffed grouse, turkeys "displaying and crooning," a pileated woodpecker, and hermit thrushes. We found a yellow-bellied sapsucker, dead, in a plastic bag hanging on our front door. Turns out Steve had brought it by and it had died hitting a window at Colleen Johnson's place. We have been hearing the sapsuckers here, with their special drumming pattern: several fast beats, then slowing down to a stop.

The goldfinches are more yellow every day as they shed their grey winter feathers and bring on the gold, also their striking black caps. Suzanne Sawyer has bluebirds, tree swallows, and two flocks of turkeys. She got a great photograph of a resplendent tom (below).

Suzanne Sawyer

We have reports of turkey buzzards, also called turkey vultures, still coming in from various parts of town, and just very recently Sally Pullen has seen and heard a Baltimore oriole singing in the top of a big maple across Route 23 from her house.

Porcupines are in the news, including one that came right up to Steve Snyder and sniffed at his bicycle tire as he held very still and watched it come.

The Stucker Report

Here is the latest report from the Stucker boys, sent in by their dad, Dominic. They, too, have news of a porcupine.

Along with the blooming of the yellow daffodils and purple crocuses, Maddox and Tiegen Stucker report seeing multiple blue jays and robins around their Blue Hill Road home. The whole family enjoyed watching the porcupine that overnights in a nearby hemlock wander about the yard one early morning. On walks along Brett Road, everyone saw a cottontail rabbit and observed a big beaver in a wetland. The first time, the beaver was chewing

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Monterey Community
Potluck Suppers

Join us on May 17:
Erica Fay, Interior Designer

Three Essential Keys to Create a Home with Heart

See the community potluck supper article on page 13.

3rd Wednesdays, October–May
6 p.m. Fellowship Hall
Monterey Church

For more information,
call Kyle Pierce, 528-9213

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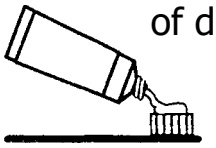

528-6520

Route 23 Monterey

Otis Cultural Council
Annual Tag Sale

The annual tag sale, sponsored by the Otis Cultural Council, will be held on May 27, 2017, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Otis Ski Ridge parking lot, on Route 23. Table space for Otis residents is $10, for non–residents it is $15. Bring your own tables. Spaces fill up quickly, so call Vicki at 413-269-4008 to reserve your space.

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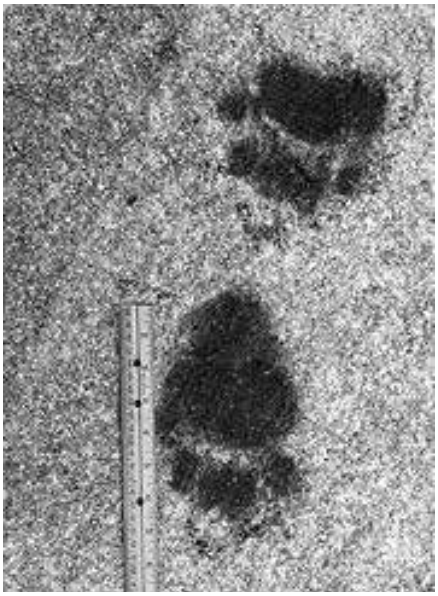


Maureen Banner

Bear tracks in snow.

contentedly on a stick and the second time it swam a long crescent punctuated with a loud slap of its tail. The boys also counted twenty-two turkeys along Blue Hill Road and saw many turkey vultures. Further afield, they spotted red-shouldered hawks at Bartholomew's Cobble and along County Road in Sheffield.

Thanks, folks. Send me all your wild news: bonnermca@gmail.com or 528-9385.

—Bonner McAllester.

Monterey Water Company: Meetings of the Corporation 1915

(Taken verbatim from the minutes book)

A meeting was called at Mr. Bills' to see if a few of the village people would agree to go in together and take water from a spring in Mr. Tryon's pasture.

Mr. B. E. Tryon was chosen chairman and Mr. Bills, secretary.

Decide to call it the Neighborhood Club. Also voted to have three trustees, Julius Miner, Jasper Bills, and Charles Gregory.

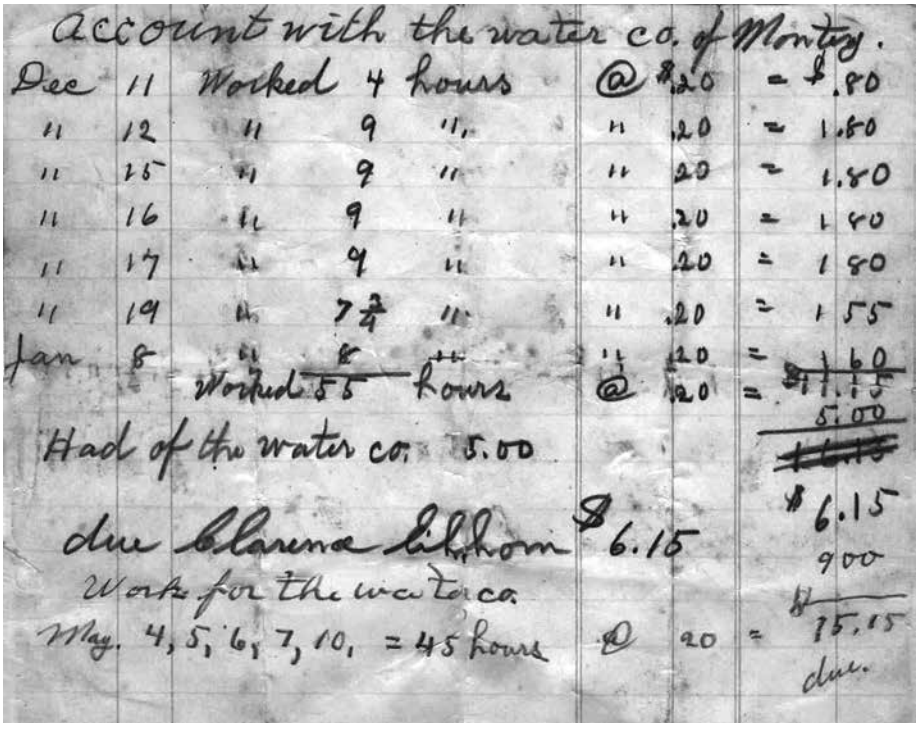
Mrs. Mary Reed was chosen secretary and treasurer but resigned. Mrs. Bidwell was then put in her place but as she was not a member of the club decided not to take it.

On January 5, 1915, trustees organized and Julius Miner acted as chairman of the meeting. Clarence Kinne was chosen secretary and treasurer. Voted to raise $70.00 per member to pay for pipe and ditch digging. *(See the receipt below.)*

Voted the trustees have a talk with Mr. and Mrs. Bidwell and see if they would like to join the club under same conditions.

In regard to crossing the Dramatie land, Mr. Tryon said they would require a privilege to draw water if the pipe crossed them but the club thought they could go around them.

Next month—a club member lets a neighboring summer resident use his water. How will the trustees respond? Intrigue and drama! —Steve Pullen



Select Board Corner

Welcome to the Select Board Corner. Our goal is to submit an article each month to the *Monterey News* to keep everyone up to date on important issues, office closings, highway projects, etc. This article may be especially important for those who cannot access our website.

www.MontereyMA.gov

Our town website is a great way to access information about the town.

Meetings and Events

Board of Health: Mondays, May 1 and 15, at 4 p.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.

Chair Yoga: Tuesdays, 9 to 10 a.m., at the community center:

Conservation Commission: Tuesday, May 9, at 6 p.m.

Council on Aging: Mondays, May 8 and 22, community center, at 10 a.m.

Visiting Nurse: Berkshire VNA will be here on Thursday, May 11, from 2 to 3 p.m. No appointment necessary.

Foot Nurse: Thursday, May 11, 9 to 11:30 a.m., by appointment (please call 528-1443 x247). All ages are welcome.

Parks Commission: Wednesday, May 3, at 6 p.m.

Planning Board: Thursdays, May 11 and 25, at 7 p.m. Please call Maggie Leonard at 528-9685 to be placed on the agenda.

Select Board: Wednesdays, May 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31, at 9 a.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.

Town Meeting: Saturday, May 6, 9:30 a.m., at the firehouse.

Town Elections, Tuesday, May 9, noon to 7 p.m.

Town Hall Closings

Town Hall will be closed Monday, May 29, for Memorial Day. Individual office closings are posted on the town calendar and on the department's voicemail message.

We recommend always calling ahead.

Other News

Mandatory Recycling By-law

We'd like to remind everyone that Monterey has a mandatory recycling by-law, approved by the voters on August 25 and 31, 1989 and May 3, 2003, which states that, "Residents of every household shall separate waste material into the following categories before depositing the same for disposal: 1) glass and cans; 2) paper and corrugated paper (cardboard); 3) other recyclable materials. If the waste material has not been separated, it may not be accepted at the transfer station." Violations of this by-law are subject to a fine. Please—reduce, reuse, and recycle.

— Kenn Basler, Chair
Steve Weisz and Carol Edelman
Monterey Select Board
(kenn@montereyma.gov)
(steve@montereyma.gov)
(carol@montereyma.gov)
For general inquiries, please click "Contact Us" at montereyma.gov

Town Contact Information

Emergency! 911

Administrative Assistant:
528-1443 x111
admin@montereyma.gov
(for town boards and misc. questions)

Assessor: 528-1443 x115
assessors@montereyma.gov

Building Department: 528-1443 x118 buildingsafety@montereyma.gov

Fire Department (non-emergency): 528-3136
fire_service@montereyfire.org

Highway Department: 528-1734
mhwy@verizon.net

Library: 528-3795
montereylibrary@gmail.com

Police Department (non-emergency): 528-3211
Alternate emergency 528-3211
mpdchief@montereyma.gov

Post Office: 528-4670

Tax Collector: 528-1443 x117
montereytax@yahoo.com
(for questions about your tax bill)

Town Clerk: 528-1443 x113
clerk@montereyma.gov
(for licenses and town records)

Yes please recycle these containers:
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Metal cans, foil, milk and juice cartons, glass bottles and jars, plastic bottles/jars/tubs/jugs, clear plastic hinged containers (clamshells), empty aerosol cans (health, beauty, food only).
Labels and caps on bottles are ok.

Calendar

Every Tuesday:
Chair Yoga with Connie Wilson, 9 to 10 a.m., community center. Free, sponsored by Monterey Parks Commission.
Cards and Games, 12:30, community center. Sponsored by the Council on Aging.

Monday, May 1: Informational meeting, Lake Garfield Working Group, 7 p.m., town hall. See page 6.

Tuesday, May 2: Special joint activity with Chair Yoga and Council on Aging. See page 5.

Friday, May 5: Knox Gallery. Joan Dix Blair—artist's talk, 5:30 to 6 p.m. Reception 6 to 7:30 p.m. See page 16.

Saturday, May 6: Town meeting, 9:30 a.m., at the firehouse.

Tuesday, May 9: Town elections, noon to 7 p.m., at the firehouse. See page 8.

Saturday, May 13: Fishing Derby, Berkshire National Fish Hatchery, River Road, 9 to 10:30, kids thirteen and under.

Wednesday, May 17: Community potluck dinner, 6 p.m., Monterey Meetinghouse. Erica Fay, interior designer. See page 13.

Friday, May 19: Mary Kate Jordan reading from her new work, *Honey in the Tree of Life*, 6 to 7:30 p.m., at the library. See the events calendar on the library website.

Saturday, May 20:
Monterey News Deadline
Lenox Contra Dance: Music by the Allan Thompson Band from Albany, calling by Steve Zakon-Anderson. All dances taught. 8 to 11:30 p.m., beginners session at 7:45. Lenox Community Center, 65 Walker St. LenoxContraDance.org, or call 528-4007 for information.

Monday, May 22: Adult book group meets at 7:30, at the library, to discuss *Nutshell*, by Ian McEwan.

Tuesday, May 23: Berkshire Country Day School concert, 7 p.m., Monterey Meetinghouse. Sponsored by the cultural council. See page 15.

Sunday, May 28:
Sunday croquet, at noon, the community center lawn. See page 21.
Bidwell House Museum season opening concert, 3 p.m. See page 27.

Community Tag Sale
July Sale to Benefit Library

Over the past two years, thanks to your generous donations of household items, furniture, clothing, jewelry, etc., over $5,000 was raised towards the newly completed community center.

This year our focus will be landscaping for the renovation of the Monterey Library. Grant money cannot be used towards landscaping. We are looking for a July sale, so check out the June issue of the *Monterey News* for date and location. Start putting aside those contributions. Some of our best purchasers were from right here in town!

—Myrna Rosen
413-528-9090

Monterey News

The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. Our editorial address is PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may also be sent to the email address below. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4007 or email montereynews9@gmail.com.

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Copy Editor..... Kateri Kosek
Mailing Labels ..... Joe Baker
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Contributions from local artists this month:
Pat Arnow, p. 5, George Emmons, p. 24;
Bonner McAllester, p. 14.

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